

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MAPUTO 00973 01 OF 02 112055Z

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13 ACDA-07 OMB-01 /090 W

-----104347 121337Z /44

R 100610Z AUG 77

FM AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6121

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY LILONGWE

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 MAPUTO 0973

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EGEN, PINS, SGEN, MZ

SUBJECT: MOZAMBIQUE ASSESSMENT: INTERNAL STABILITY

REF: (A) MAPUTO 0949; (B) MAPUTO 0903 OF 12 AUGUST 1976

1. SUMMARY. INTERNAL DISSIDENCE DOES NOT POSE A THREAT TO FRELIMO CONTROL AT THE PRESENT TIME. DESPITE INCURSIONS INTO MOZAMBIQUE BY BLACK, EX-MOZAMBICAN MILITARY IRREGULARS FROM RHODESIAN AND MINOR FLAREUPS OF POPULAR RESISANCE TO GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS, GOVERNMENT CONTROL HAS CONTINUED TO IMPROVE THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY AND ESPECIALLY IN THE POPULATION CENTERS. THE INTERNAL CLADESTINE ORGANIZATIONS, WHICH SPRANG UP DURING MOZAMBIQUE'S FIRST YEAR OF INDEPENDENCE, HAS BEEN DORMANT. THE ARMY, A POTENTIAL SOURCE OF UNREST, HAS BEEN LARGELY PURGED AND OLD SOLDIERS REPLACED BY NEW RECRUITS. SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS SEEM TO BE CONFIDENT

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 MAPUTO 00973 01 OF 02 112055Z

ABOUT THE INTERNAL SECURITY SITUATION AND FREQUENTLY TRAVEL OUT OF THE COUNTRY. WE SEE NO SERIOUS CHALLENGE TO THE GOVERNMENT ARISING FROM WITHIN THE PARTY OR THE ARMY OVER THE NEXT YEAR OR TWO. END SUMMARY.

2. THE GPRM IS MORE FIRMLY ENTRENCHED THAN EVER BEFORE. THE APPEARANCE OF ARMED TROOPS IN URBAN AREAS AND THE FREQUEUNCE OF

ROADBLOCKS AND OTHER SECURITY CHECKS HAS DIMINISHED CONSIDERABLY. SECURITY AROUND THE PRESIDENTIAL PALACE IS LIGHT AND RUMORS OF ASSASSINATION ATTEMPTS ON THE LIFE OF PRESIDENT MACHEL HAVE ALL BEEN UNFOUNDED. PRESIDENT MACHEL AND SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS FREQUENTLY TRAVEL IN THE PROVINCES AND OUTSIDE THE COUNTRY WITH NO APPARENT FEAR OR HESITATION AND WITHOUT EXTENSIVE SECURITY GUARDS.

3. REPORTS OF REGIONAL AND TRIBAL DISSIDENCE CONTINUE, BUT THE SCOPE IS MINOR. IN MARCH 1977 THERE WAS A REPORTED OUTBREAK OF MAKONDE TRIBAL DISSIDENCE IN CABO DELGADO PROVINCE AND THERE HAVE BEEN REPORTS OF SPORADIC OUTBREAKS OF ANTI-GOVERNMENT DEMONSTRATIONS AND SOME VIOLENCE IN IHAMBANE PROVINCE ALONG THE COAST. THE CAUSES OF THESE DISTURBANCES IS UNKNOWN, BUT THEY ARE THOUGHT TO BE ASSOCIATED WITH PURELY LOCAL GRIEVANCES. FOLLOWING THESE INCIDENTS A NUMBER OF ARMY AND POLICE OFFICIALS IN THE AFFECTED AREAS HAVE BEEN DISMISSED FOR CORRUPTION AND MALFEASANCE. AT THE SAME TIME THOSE CONSIDERED RESPONSIBLE FOR THE UPRISINGS WERE DETAINED AND SENT TO RE-EDUCATION CAMPS.

4. THE THREE INTERNAL OPPOSITION GROUPS---MAGAIA, THE CABO DELGADO FRONT AND FUMO (UNITED DEMOCRATIC FRONT OF MOZAMBIQUE)--WHICH SURFACED DURING MOZAMBIQUE'S FIRST YEAR OF INDEPENDENCE, HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO GENERATE ANY INTERNAL SUPPORT AND ARE VIRTUALLY MORIBUND WITHIN THE COUNTRY. HOWEVER, FUMO, ONCE THE

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 MAPUTO 00973 01 OF 02 112055Z

LARGEST OF THE THREE GROUPS, STILL BROADCASTS ANTI-GOVERNMENT STATEMENTS OVER RADIO RHODESIA. WE HAVE REPORTS OF A NEW GROUP CALLING ITSELF THE NIASSA FRONT OPERATING IN NIASSA PROVINCE. THE NIASSA FRONT IS BELIEVED TO BE A GROUP OF REGIONAL OPPOSITIONISTS BASED IN MALAWI WHO ARE CONDUCTING LOW-LEVEL CROSS-BORDER OPERATIONS NOT CLEARLY DISTINGUISHABLE FROM BANDITRY. THEY ARE POORLY ORGANIZED AND DO NOT CONSTITUTE A THREAT TO THE FRELIMO GOVERNMENT.

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MAPUTO 00973 02 OF 02 121328Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13 ACDA-07 OMB-01 /090 W

-----121106 121337Z /44

R 100610Z AUG 77

FM AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6122

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY LILONGWE

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 MAPUTO 0973

5. A NUMBER OF EX-MOZAMBICANS HAVE BEEN RECRUITED AS MILITARY IRREGULARS BY THE RHODESIANS. MANY OF THESE ARE EX-COLONIAL POLICEMEN OR SOLDIERS. THEY ARE FREQUENTLY IN ACTION ALONG THE BORDER AREAS OF TETE, MANICA, AND GAZA PROVINCES AND HAVE HAD CONSIDERABLE MILITARY SUCCESS OVER LOCAL FPLM UNITS. ALTHOUGH SOME OF THESE IRREGULARS HAVE REFERRED TO THEMSELVES AS ANTI-FRELIMO PATRIOTS, AS FAR AS WE CAN DETERMINE, THEY DO NOT REPRESENT A MOZAMBICAN POLITICAL GROUP BUT RATHER A RHODESIAN COMMANDO FORCE.

6. A KEY TO GOVERNMENT CONTROL AND CONFIDENCE IS THE CONTINUED LOYALTY OF THE ARMY AND POLICE. DURING THE PAST YEAR THERE HAS BEEN A QUIET BUT EXTENSIVE TURNOVER IN THE ARMY, WITH OLD GUERRILLAS BEING PENSIONED OFF, SENT ABROAD ON TRAINING COURSES, OR APPOINTED TO CIVILIAN POSITIONS. NEW RECRUITS, MAINLY FROM THE SOUTH, HAVE TAKEN THEIR PLACES. THESE RECRUITS ARE INDOCTRINATE IN TWO SPECIAL TRAINING
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 MAPUTO 00973 02 OF 02 121328Z

CAMPS AT BOANE AND DONDO AND ARE CONSIDERED TO BE MORE HIGHLY POLITICIZED AND STRONGER GOVERNMENT SUPPORTERS THAN THE OLDER CADRES WHO FOUGHT DURING THE INDEPENDENCE WAR. INDEED, THE PARTY'S INTENTION IS TO CREATE A NEW, POLITICIZED AND INDOCTRINATED ARMY AND IS IN THE PROCESS OF DOING SO. FOLLOWING THE COUP ATTEMPT IN ANGOLA, THE GOVERNMENT'S INDOCTRINATION PROGRAM WAS ACCELERATED, WITH FORMER MINISTER OF INTERIOR ARMANDO GUEBUZA AND PRESIDENTIAL AID SERGIO VIEIRA APPOINTED TO SENIOR POSITIONS IN THE ARMY AND PARTY TO ENSURE THE LOYALTY OF THE ARMY.

7. ANOTHER ASPECT OF GOVERNMENT CONTROL HAS BEEN THE USE OF RE-EDUCATION CAMPS. THE GOVERNMENT READILY ADMITS THAT

IT MAINTAINS RE-EDUCATION CAMPS TO DISCIPLINE THOSE WHO VIOLATE THE PARTY LINE OR OTHERWISE CAUSE TROUBLE. ALTHOUGH WE DO NOT KNOW HOW MANY CAMPS EXIST, AT ONE POINT THE GOVERNMENT ADMITTED HOLDING 12-15,000 DETAINEES, BUT WE SUSPECT THE TRUE FIGURE IS HIGHER. AS A SANCTION, THE CAMPS ARE EFFICIENT IN STIFLING OVERT DISSENT. THE GOVERNMENT ALSO HAS AN ONGOING "PURIFICATION" CAMPAIGN IN WHICH GOVERNMENT AND PARTY CADRES THEMSELVES ARE EXAMINED, FREQUENTLY PURGED AND SENT TO RE-EDUCATION CAMPS. THIS ONGOING CAMPAIGN HAS AT TIMES REACHED INTO THE SECOND ECHELON OF THE PARTY, ALTHOUGH TOP OFFICIALS HAVE NOT YET BEEN AFFECTED.

8. ONE GROUP OF OFFICIALS THAT BEARS WATCHING ARE THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNORS. ALL ARE EX-ARMY CADRE AND MOST ARE EX-GUERRILLAS WITH GOOD COMBAT RECORDS. THIS DOES NOT MAKE THEM EFFECTIVE ADMINISTRATORS AND SOME, SUCH AS ZAMBEZIA GOVERNOR BONAFACIO GRUVETA, HAVE SET THEMSELVES UP AS SATRAPS WHO DO AS THEY PLEASE. EVENTUALLY THE NATIONAL LEADERSHIP WILL HAVE TO DEAL WITH THESE RATHER AUTONOMOUS BARONIES AND THIS MAY BE DIFFICULT.
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 MAPUTO 00973 02 OF 02 121328Z

9. CONCLUSION. THE ARMY REPRESENTS THE ONLY POTENTIALLY SERIOUS THREAT TO THE FRELIMO REGIME. AT PRESENT, THERE IS NO EVIDENCE OF ORGANIZED DISSIDENCE WITHIN THE ARMY. WE EXPECT MACHEL TO REMAIN IN CONTROL OF HIS ARMY AND THE COUNTRY OVER THE NEXT YEAR OR TWO.
DE PREE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL STABILITY, INTELLIGENCE ASSESSMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 10-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977MAPUTO00973
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770291-0138
Format: TEL
From: MAPUTO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770877/aaaacnef.tel
Line Count: 203
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 1bc6305d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 MAPUTO 949, 77 MAPUTO 903
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1648012
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MOZAMBIQUE ASSESSMENT: INTERNAL STABILITY
TAGS: EGEN, PINS, SGEN, PGOV, MZ
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/1bc6305d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009